

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENNA 06536 191556Z

ACTION IO-14

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7240

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 06536

UNIDO

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: UNIDO

SUBJECT: REAPPOINTMENT OF UNIDO EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR KHANE

REF: VIENNA 6504

1. MISOFF WAS CONTACTED JULY 19 BY BRAZILIAN ALTERNATE PERMREP TO UNIDO MENDONCA CONCERNING THE REAPPOINTMENT OF UNIDO EXDIR KHANE TO ANOTHER FOUR YEAR TERM. MENDONCA IS OFFICER WITHIN BRAZILIAN EMBASSY PRIMARILY CHARGED WITH FOLLOWING UNIDO AFFAIRS AND HE REPRESENTED BRAZIL AT LAST IDB SESSION.

2. MENDONCA WISHED TO KNOW IF GROUP B INTENDED TO SUPPORT KHANE OR TO PRESENT AN ALTERNATE CANDIDATE. MISOFF REPLIED THAT THE SUBJECT HAD NOT YET BEEN FORMALLY DISCUSSED WITHIN GROUP B, BUT THAT THE GENERAL FEELING WAS THAT KHANE HAD NOT BEEN AN EFFECTIVE ADMINISTRATOR.

3. MENDONCA SAID THAT ALGERIA HAD FORMALLY PRESENTED KHANE'S CANDIDATURE FOR A SECOND FOUR-YEAR TERM TO THE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 VIENNA 06536 191556Z

AFRICAN GROUP OF THE G-77, BUT THAT SUPPORT WITHIN THE GROUP WAS DIVIDED. SUDAN AND NIGERIA, IN PARTICULAR, WERE SO FAR UNWILLING TO SUPPORT KHANE. (THE MISSION HAD HEARD EARLIER THAT KHANE'S VISIT TO THE CURRENT OAU MEETING WAS DESIGNED TO SECURE CONSENSUS SUPPORT FOR HIS REAPPOINTMENT.)

4. KHANE, ACCORDING TO MENDONCA, HAD WISHED TO MAKE A SWING THROUGH LATIN AMERICA BUT HAD BEEN DISSUADED THROUGH THE OPPOSITION OF BRAZIL AND OTHER COUNTRIES. THE LATIN AMERICAN MEMBERS WERE, IN GENERAL, DISSATISFIED WITH KHANE, AND THERE HAD BEEN MUCH TALK OF PRESENTING A LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE FOR THE POSITION. MANY NAMES HAD BEEN MENTIONED (INCLUDING EVEN PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ OF VENEZUELA AND FORMER PRESIDENT ECHEVARRIA OF MEXICO), BUT ALL WERE JUST "GOSSIPS" AT THIS STAGE.

5. AS NOTED IN REFTTEL, MISSION FEELS THAT, WITHIN CONTEXT OF UN POLITICS, A LATIN AMERICAN WOULD BE THE MOST VIABLE CANDIDATE TO REPLACE KHANE. DURING THE LAST IDB SESSION, THE LATIN AMERICANS SHOWED SIGNS OF DISSATISFACTION WITH THE G-77 LEADERSHIP AND INTENTIONS OF SEEKING A MORE ACTIVE ROLE FOR THEMSELVES. MISOFF INFORMED MENDONCA THAT A STRONG LATIN AMERICAN CANDIDATE WOULD RECEIVE SERIOUS CONSIDERATION BY USG AND, HE WAS SURE, FROM OTHER MEMBERS OF GROUP B. LEARY

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